

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Friday, December 3, 2004

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**Peace Games Will End After 32 years of International Sports Competitions**  
*Indianapolis, Scarborough Boards agree games have achieved mission*

**INDIANAPOLIS** — The Indianapolis, IN and Scarborough, Ontario, Peace Games Boards announced today their decision to end the Peace Games — the annual international sports competition between the two cities — citing a decline in participation and economic support.

When created in 1972, the Peace Games — named for the Vietnam Peace treaty, which was signed on the same day that arrangements between Indianapolis and Scarborough were finalized — established a mission to promote fellowship, friendly competition and provide cultural exchange between the two cities and countries. Both the Indianapolis and Scarborough boards agree this mission has been accomplished.

“The children of Indianapolis and Scarborough have had their young minds broadened and learned to embrace cultural differences through this premier international multi-sport event,” said Jim Wade, Indianapolis Peace Games Board President. “We’ve reached our goal in the important mission of developing our youth into citizens who understand and have a greater appreciation for the people and culture of our nations.”

Despite successes, each community has faced a decline in participation over the last decade, with 2000 total athletes competing 10 years ago to under 400 athletes in 2004. Organizers agreed that with schools offering more sports opportunities throughout the year, combined with the advent of traveling sports teams in the summer, the Peace Games have become dated, and are no longer meeting the needs of the athletes.

“The disadvantages to continue these games far outweigh anything concrete that we can suggest in order to continue,” said Robin Helmer, Scarborough Peace Games Board President. “All the reasons cited are valid and the changing world today does not allow us to continue.”

Board members also cited housing the athletes as an increasingly difficult task. A fundamental philosophy of the games was for athletes to be housed with families in the host city, a practice with which many parents are no longer comfortable. Future housing of the athletes would require additional funding for hotels, or possible background checks of host families.

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The Peace Games was the first major event to offer more than 50,000 amateur athletes the opportunity to compete and travel to international locations. The games allowed youth and adults to experience athletic competition in a friendly environment. The spirit of friendship, cultural exchange and international travel overshadowed the “winning” philosophy. In 1999, Sister Cities International awarded the Indianapolis-Scarborough Peace Games the “Best Youth Program” for its programming and positive impact on youth.

Members of the Scarborough and Indianapolis Peace Games Boards will remain in contact through their participation in the International Games Conference. In the near future, the Indianapolis Peace Games Board will adopt a new mission and direct its resources to assist Indy Parks and Recreation in developing its youth sports pilot programs in soccer, cycling, soap box derby, tennis, and baseball. Indianapolis and Scarborough are also in discussions to hold a “Celebration of Friendship” event next June in Scarborough, which was the site of the first Peace Games in 1973.

“There will always be a warm spot in our hearts for the Indy board and the city of Indianapolis and their people,” said Helmer. “The games may be gone but will never be forgotten.”

For additional information, please contact Jim Wade in Indianapolis at 317-780-7100, and Robin Helmer in Scarborough at 416-266-9588. Additional Peace Games history and facts can be found at [www.indypeacegames.com](http://www.indypeacegames.com).